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Newsletter

GRADUATE SCHOOL ★ USDA

Washington, D. C.

November 27, 1950

To the Faculty, Committee Members and
others associated with the Graduate School:

Private funds for GS activities?

They are not a reality yet. How could we use them if we had them? P. V. Cardon, G. O. Henderson, and M. L. Wilson are members of a committee appointed by Chairman T. Roy Reid of the General Administration Board to look into possibilities for funds, propose activities that might be so financed, and plan action.

The question first came up when a friend of GS inquired as to how he might best contribute to the school's development. It assumed considerable importance when we saw how closely the announced aims and the first grants of the Ford Foundation are in line with many GS activities.

Can you suggest projects for which it would be appropriate for GS to request financing from private funds? Among ideas already proposed are the use of outside funds to pay for the traditional Monday afternoon lecture series, subsidies for an increased number of cooperative extension interneers, and certain research studies in administration and the social science studies.

The annual faculty dinner

will be held Friday, January 19, 1951, at 6:15 p.m., in the Department cafeteria. The invitation list will also include committee members and those listed in the Bulletin to teach in the 1951-52 school year. The program, not yet in its final form, will be built around my "report to the stockholders." The committee in charge of the dinner has suggested that possibly departmental chairmen may wish to arrange to hold informal meetings of faculty and committee members after the dinner. Bushrod Allin (Social Sciences) is general chairman of the meeting. You will receive an invitation giving the meeting place and program. I am looking forward to seeing you at the dinner.

The first move

toward placing the GS staff, faculty, and committee members under the Federal Old Age and Survivors Insurance System (Public Law 734) was taken at the October 13 meeting of the General Administration Board. It was voted that I should take the necessary steps..."if at least two-thirds of the affected employees elect such coverage." Only those employees voting in favor would be covered by the Insurance, but subsequently all new employees would be covered. You will receive further background information on this soon.

"Toward Better College Teaching"

is the title of a recent report prepared by the Office of Education (Bulletin 1950, No. 13) on several studies relating to the selection and training of potential instructors and to the improvement of college teaching.

In the foreword, John Dale Russell, director of the Division of Higher Education notes that the widespread demand for greater effectiveness in teaching can be attributed to: (1) the maturity of veteran students: (2) an increase in the number of young people attending college; and (3) recognition of the need to prepare better for the social, economic, and civil problems of the modern world.

Replies from 363 instructors in the study of teacher preparation indicate the requisites of a good college teacher are preparation in his speciality, competence as a research scholar, high native intelligence, and sincere devotion to his scholarly interests. Common weaknesses are negative personal traits, narrow training, a lack of specific training for teaching, and greater interest in research than in teaching.

Along this same line are the teacher qualifications listed by L. M. Massey of Cornell for the teaching of plant pathology at a symposium in New York last winter. (The Plant Disease Reporter, Vol. 34, No. 9.) Dr. Massey says the desire to teach is the first fundamental. Other qualities in order named are sympathetic interest in young people, enthusiasm for his subject, good broad basic training with thorough grounding in the principles and facts and application of facts, sound grounding in related subjects, ability to organize.

Like hybridization

in corn and other plants, the process of working together seems to add an extra spark of vigor to our total productiveness. Good outlines of the process in agriculture and education are to be found in: USDA Agricultural Information Bulletin 21 - Teamwork in Agriculture and USDA Administrative Series No. 9 - Working Together-Investment in Education.

The first covers the technical cooperation program between USDA and Latin American governments. Attractively illustrated, the 21-page bulletin tells what the cooperation is, how it came about, how it is carried on, how it transfers knowledge and skills, and what it is contributing to the United States and to other lands.

The second bulletin, prepared by a joint committee of USDA and the Land-Grant Colleges, covers the cooperative work in training for government service.

The second printing

of "What We Learned in Public Administration During the War" is now in the presses. The first printing of 500 copies of this GS book published in July was sold out. Vera Jensen tells me that the Bookstore will have copies of the second printing after December 1.

First suggestion

for possible new courses in 1951-52 comes from the Committee on Mathematics and Statistics. At a meeting, November 7, the Committee planned a survey of needs in various fields of research for new courses in fundamentals of experimental design. This is one of the few important areas not now covered in the M&S curriculum.

"The statistical training to be had in the Graduate School of the Department of Agriculture is the equivalent of that available in the better universities."

In calling our attention to the above quotation, O. V. Wells of the General Administration Board correctly predicted that we would feel it is "a jewel indeed." It can be found on page 94 of Publication No. 50 of the National Bureau of Economic Research Inc. As Mr. Wells points out this is actually the report of the statistical task force of the Hoover Commission on the Organization of the Executive Branch of Government. The report was written by Frederick C. Mills, one of the outstanding statisticians of the United States, author of a standard textbook in the field as well as numerous research works, and by his assistant, Clarence D. Long.

Opportunities for internes

to conduct research of value to USDA that may also be used to meet requirements for a doctorate are the most extensive since the public service training program was initiated in 1948.

R. Y. Winters, chairman of the GS committee on internship cooperation, told the joint (USDA-Land Grant College Association) committee recently that positions have already been established for 58 internes during 1951-52 and other openings will probably be added. The majority of those already set up are in the regional laboratories (Philadelphia, New Orleans, Peoria, Illinois, and Albany, Calif.). Among the new ones is one each in OFAR and FCIC.

To stimulate wide interest in these opportunities, the joint committee has directed the Office of Personnel to supply announcements to key professors as well as the deans and other administrative officials in the colleges.

Foreign visitors

who have recently been given information on GS activities include six Japanese representatives of their country's public personnel administration and Samuel T. Barnett, Secretary for Justice in New Zealand.

The Japanese whose work corresponds to that of the U. S. Civil Service Commissioners were participating in a program arranged by State's Institute of International Education with Dr. Catheryn Seckler-Hudson as consultant.

Mr. Barnett, whose chief interest is in in-service training, was referred to GS by the Public Administration Clearing House.

"Land Problems and Policies"

a new book edited by John F. Timmons and William G. Murray of the Iowa State College faculty and published by the Iowa State College Press contains three chapters that were first given in the GS lecture series on natural resources in 1948-49. These are "Forestry in a changing world," by J.D.B. Harrison of FAO; "Recreation's stake in our natural resources," by Ernest S. Griffiths of the Library of Congress; and "Twilight for wildlife," by Ira N. Gabrielson, president of the Wildlife Management Institute. V. Webster Johnson (BAE) instructor in land economics, and Sherman Johnson (BAE) chairman of the department of social sciences also contributed chapters to the new book.

ABOUT OURSELVES

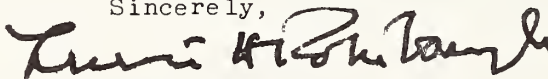
We are losing an able associate, November 30, when Barbara P. Burrow resigns as registrar to devote full time to being a homemaker. Mrs. Rhea Burrow in private life, she came to GS in 1944 from North Carolina where she had been a member of the faculty of the Women's College of the State University system. Mrs. Burrow has been a valuable asset to the GS staff. To her goes the credit for establishing the GS permanent file of student educational records, for setting and maintaining high standards in publication of the Bulletin. Her sympathetic understanding of student problems and her conscientious concern with them has earned her the respect of the students and the faculty members with whom she has come in contact.

While V. Webster Johnson (Social Sciences) is on a 6-months assignment in Japan, his class in Land Economics will be taught by Buis T. Inman, assistant head of the Division of Land Economics (BAE). Dr. Inman is a graduate in agriculture from the University of Kentucky and holds a PhD from the University of Illinois. He formerly taught at Alabama Polytechnic Institute.

The able and conscientious work of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee staff under the leadership of Francis Wilcox (Social Sciences) was commended in a letter from Secretary Acheson to Senator Tom Connolly, Committee chairman, recently. Dr. Wilcox is on loan to the Committee from the Library of Congress where he is senior specialist in international relations.

W. F. Callander, former GS teacher and student, who retired from USDA last year, has sent us a photostat of a chart he had prepared to compare the statistical teaching program of the University of Florida with that of other institutions-- Princeton, Iowa State, North Carolina, GS. Mr. Callander is the first director of the Florida statistical laboratory.

Sincerely,



Director

